TO BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE BAHÁ'ÍS ONLY **SHARAF (HONOUR) B.E. 164 : 31**
December 2007

SABAH BAHÁ'Í NEWSLETTER

PREPARED FOR THE SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF SABAH

BAHÁ'Í UNITY CAMP 2007

O Children of Adam!

"Holy words and pure and goodly deeds ascend unto the heaven of celestial glory. Strive that your deeds may be cleansed from the dust of self and hypocrisy and find favor at the court of glory; for ere long the assayers of mankind shall, in the holy presence of the Adored One, accept naught but absolute virtue and deeds of stainless purity. This is the daystar of wisdom and of divine mystery that hath shone above the horizon of the divine will. Blessed are they that turn thereunto".

-

Bahá'u'lláh-

LOCAL NEWS

SABAH ADVANCES

Cluster	Total new believers			
	May-Jun 2007	Aug-Oct 2007	Nov 07 - Jan 2008	Total
Kota Kinabalu	4	6		10
Kota Marudu	10	32	4	46
Sandakan	-	-	15	15
Penampang	-	-	13	13
Ranau	-	-	13	13
			Total	**97**

Our teaching goal by Ridvan 2008 – 150 new believers

The data above is derived from information received by the Secretariat of NSA Sabah.

The highlight of the whole session was the topic of Teaching.

Mr. Paul Koh and Miss Ridvan

SABAH UNITY CAMP 2007
"Teaching - the dominating passion of our lives"
14TH -16TH DECEMBER 2007

The Unity Camp that was recently held in Sabah turned out to be a huge success. A new wave unprecedented in the history of Sabah was witnessed. It ushered in a new spirit as the friends tuned themselves with the theme of the Unity Camp which reads *"Teaching is the dominating passion of our lives".*

Auxilliary Board Member Mr. Paul Koh represented Counsellor Jaya Gopan at the Unity Camp. He introduced the topic of Teaching by speaking on the "joy of teaching" and stressed on the importance of sharing the Bahá'í Faith with humanity.

This was followed by Mr. Ruben who shared practical ideas on the use of flip chart as an aid for teaching. The flip chart is derived from Ruhi book 6 using the concepts presented by Anna in teaching. It gave confidence to the friends that this method indeed is an effective one.

Chinese Session

A practical session was later held on how to use the flip chart. The session was a very useful one as it gave each and every participant confidence in using it to teach. They practiced on one another. The idea was to familiarize themselves with the contents and to speak in a logical sequence.

Later with the experience gained, participants broke themselves into groups and went out for teaching around Ranau town. Teaching on that day was no easy task. The weather was not very favorable to start with. One car had to be towed out of mud and some friends had wonderful encounters with mean dogs. However, with the joy in the hearts and with a spirit of teaching no obstacle could stop them. A total of 13 people embraced the Faith.

Youth and Junior Youth group Photo

The Unity Camp ended with an explosion of spiritual energy among the friends, who were highly charged. No thought of negativity was entertained. Indeed the teaching experience at Ranau was an unforgettable one for the participants. The love and understanding that could be seen and felt among the friends sparked an energy that was never experienced before. It was a brief period when the friends forgot themselves and made teaching a passion for themselves. It is our belief that in the coming Unity Camps in the years ahead, this spirit will escalate to higher and higher levels.

PENAMPANG TEACHING CAMPAIGN 18TH TO 21ST DECEMBER 2007

We were fortunate to have proper training at the Unity Camp (14 to 16 December 2007) on the use of Anna's Presentation (Flip Chart teaching) to share the Faith with enquirers. During the Camp we actually had one afternoon of direct teaching in Ranau followed by musical fireside in the evening. As the enquirers did not turn up probably due to

distance between Ranau and the Camp venue, we had more time to share teaching experiences of the day after the musical fireside presentation which was held anyway so the youth can practice what they have trained for. The musical fireside was very well planned and presented and the youth will surely be able to hold musical firesides in future.

The teaching campaign in Penampang was planned for a short duration of 4 days, being a C cluster with limited human resource. The spirit of the Unity Camp was high and we got many volunteers from outside Penampang who joined us, though not full time. Altogether about 36 friends took part.

We gathered on 18 December 2007 at 9 am. After 2 rounds of prayers including Tablet of Ahmad, we listed out the names of contacts that we can teach. We also decided to have 3 firesides, one in the Bahá'í Centre, one in Krishnan's house and one in Aaron's house. The 2 home

firesides were targeted for a few contacts who are close to the host family and care was taken not to overwhelm the contacts with too many Bahá'ís present.

For all the 4 days, 2 rounds of prayers was followed by sharing of experiences. Team formation then takes place after consultation based on the contacts listed. One of the 4 days was a public holiday and we were able to meet the contacts more easily.

Finally in the evening of 21 December 2007, we gathered in the Bahá'í Centre, thankful to Bahá'u'lláh that 13 contacts have joined the Bahá'í World Family. Mr Raymond Peter from Cambodia shared his experiences and advice on how to succeed in teaching. The friends are indeed grateful to Mr.Peter for his great passion in teaching and sacrifice of time to be with the teaching team for the whole duration of the campaign.

To conclude, some very important factors in the success of this campaign are the whole-hearted commitment and unity of the friends and also total reliance on the power of prayers.

TEACHING CAMPAIGN IN SANDAKAN
(8th - 13th December 2007)

In respond to the call by our beloved National Spiritual Assembly to organize teaching campaign during the month of November 2007 to January 2008, our Local Spiritual Assembly had decided to carry out a campaign in the month of November, during the start of the school holiday. However, after due consultation with Board Member Mr. Kang Eng Soo, we decided to defer the teaching campaign till December whereby we should be more prepared by then.

As Sandakan has been 'dormant" for quite some time, outside help is needed to make this campaign a success. Hence SOS message were sent out and response of the friends were overwhelming. Our campaign kicked off on the evening of 7th whereby the friends arrived with full enthusiasm and energy. We had Reuben Koh from Klang, a fantastic youth who "flipped" the flip chart like magic, Chin Ann Lee, Ilmy and twins Yen San and Mei San from Kuching, Wai Ho and twins Wai On, Wai Peng from Kota Kinabalu; *(we know for sure who our twin Prophets are-- the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh but these two pairs of twins with their faces so much alike, we got confused and to get either one of them we have to ask Wai...what? and which...San? {"Shen San" they said, which means "Mount Kinabalu" -- ha..ha..joking only}* From Lahad Datu, National Spiritual Assembly Member Mr. Thangavelu and wife, Anjes and their three children Shanti, Anyssa and Wahin were also here. We were privileged to have Board Member Mr. Kang with us to guide us through the procedure of the campaign; and Board Member Mr. Khor who joined our campaign from his very, very tight work schedule. Lastly, the support of the local friends who offered their homes and provide food and lodging for the outside friends were most heart warming.

On the 8th, we had flip chart training by Reuben in the morning, followed by teaching trips in the afternoon and evening. On the 9th, the whole day had been devoted to teachings only. Friends gathered for devotions, made appointments and set out to the waiting souls.

These two days saw the declarations of 1 souls embracing the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. Sandakan was shaken and is waking up! 4 more days to go for the campaign and we hope to see more souls to join the family under the banner of Bahá'u'lláh.

Even when you are sharing this news during the Feast tonight, we are here

continuing to share the message of Bahá'u'lláh with our friends; a musical fireside is organized tonight at the Chok's residence. Please offer your prayers for the souls gathered here. And if you want to know the outcome of tonight's fireside, together with what happened during the last three days, of how we gathered for prayers and experienced the power of it, how appointments were secured, of what we encountered during our teaching trips concerning the Indian shops, the "Indian religion", the "International family"...., of the laughter and tears we share, do join the Unity Camp at BCCM on this coming 14th to 16th, whereby we shall share with you all these happenings in delight.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to all who have received good PMR result. While for those who are unlucky, please don't give up because there is always room for improvement.

SHARE YOUR INSPIRING STORY!
AND SEND TO;

Buletin Bahá'í Sabah,
P. O. Box 13978, 88846 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah
or Email to : **nsasabah@streamyx.com**

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR
From
The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Sabah